

Department of Commerce Occupational Safety and Health Report



September 2004

**Department of Commerce
Office of Occupational Safety and Health
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 5111
Washington, DC 20230**

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Executive Summary

Introduction

This is the Department of Commerce (DOC) Occupational Safety and Health Report for September 2004. This report provides current information about the DOC safety and health program, injury, illness and workers' compensation data, and helpful tips covering a variety of safety and health topics.

Performance Measures and Analysis

For FY 2004 (YTD) slips, trips, falls, and struck by incidents make up 54 percent of the injury and illness types reported this year and continue to be DOCs main source of injuries and illness claims. Information on all types of injuries is provided in Figure 1. To address these issues, the Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OOSH) is working on an awareness program that can be exported to the bureaus and agencies.

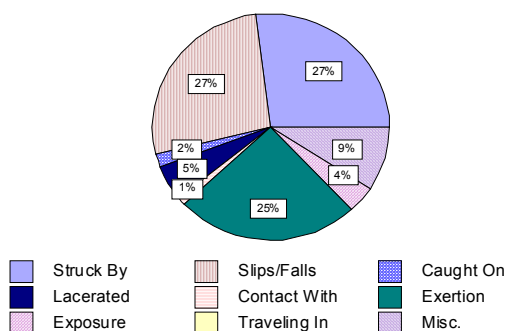


Figure 1. Injury type as a percentage of total injuries FY 2004 (YTD).

Consistent with the President's Safety Health and Return-to-Employment (SHARE) initiative, DOC continues to focus on the measurement of average lost production workdays, which is the average number of workdays lost due to an injury or illness. Our goal for FY 2004 is 20.7 lost production days. To date, DOC has seen a 10 percent increase in lost production days when compared to FY 2003 (See Figure 4). This increase may be attributed to the agencies' slowness to process workers' compensation (WC) claims after an injury or illness which creates delays in medical services rendered and ultimately extends the time a worker is not at work. Timeliness of processing injury and illness claims is addressed in Figure 3.

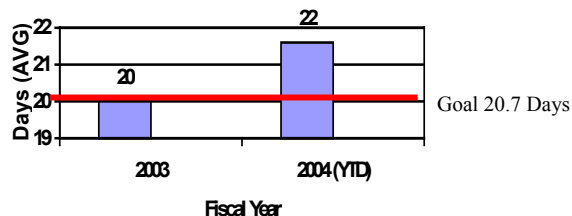


Figure 2. Lost production days for the past 2 fiscal years (YTD).

Figure 3 depicts the average time it takes for DOC to process mandatory WC paperwork to the Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Workers' Compensation Program (OWCP), where the standard is 14 calendar days.

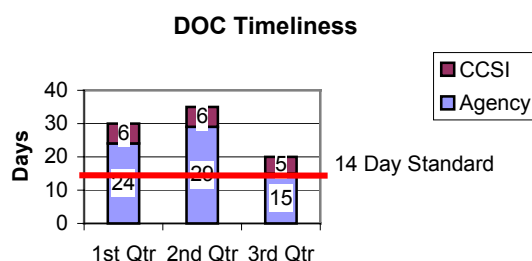


Figure 3. Timeliness of processing injury and illness claims.

During the past 3 quarters of FY 2004, DOC has exceeded the 14-day reporting period to OWCP, where delays continue to be related to the Department's slowness to forward the required WC paperwork to DOL. Due to the high numbers, a programmatic review was conducted and OOSH identified that the Department did not capture processing dates through each step of the process. This problem was resolved by OOSH, and 3rd quarter timeliness data is accurately reflected. Program review also identified a significant problem regarding the documentation process, where supervisors are not recording the proper dates on the workers' compensation forms. The OOSH has submitted Departmental broadcast announcements to all employees and supervisors to make them aware of the proper workers' compensations documentation procedures. These procedures are also addressed in Section One of this month's OSH report.

FY 2004 (YTD), DOCs WC costs are \$10,927,102. If the data is extrapolated throughout the year, the Department's WC costs continue to stabilize with FY 2003 costs (See Figure 6), which was a 4.2 percent decrease from FY 2002. To realize further reductions, DOC continues to work with DOL to expedite claims processing with Safety Health

Information Management System (SHIMS), and DOC instituted an innovative approach to controvert WC claims.

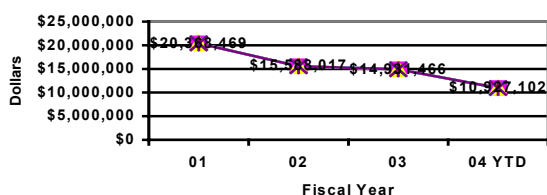


Figure 4. Workers' compensation costs for the past 4 fiscal years (YTD).

OOSH received 39 responses to the monthly DOC Safety and Health survey. Table 1 provides data from 37 responders indicating the continued perception that there is a lack of safety and health improvements within DOC. OOSH is developing an improved survey to clearly identify potential areas of concern and improvement.

Have you noticed any safety and health improvements in your work area or in DOC as a whole during the second quarter?		
Answer	Response	Percent
No	24	64.86
Yes	13	35.14

Table 1. Safety and health survey.

Bureau News

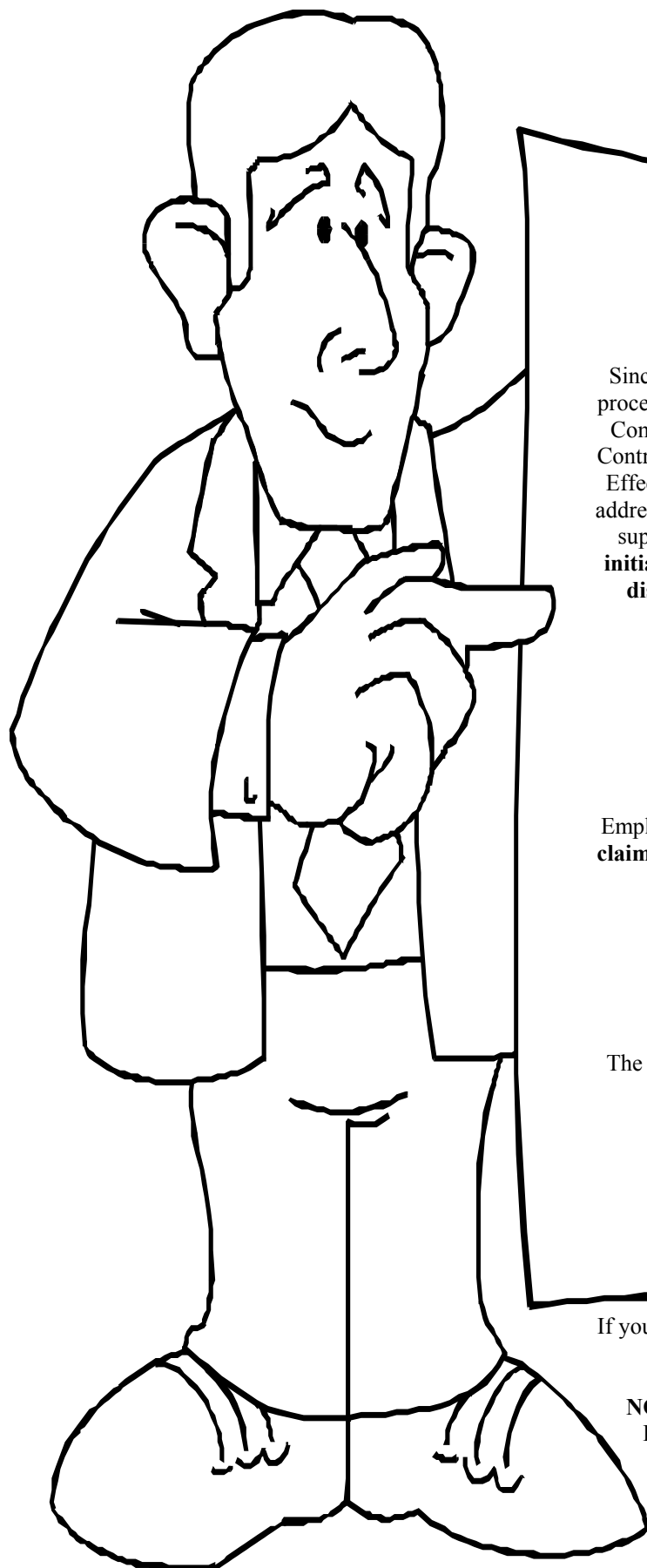
Census Safe Driving Initiative is a Success. Field representatives and other staff in regional Census Bureau offices drive hundreds of thousands of miles a year to collect data which is critical to its operations. To reduce the number of vehicular accidents and ensure these employees are adequately protected during the many hours spent behind the wheel, Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon inaugurated a Safe Driving Initiative in October 2002. The key elements of the initiative are training in safe driving techniques, emphasizing the requirements of wearing seat belts, and the establishment of an award to recognize any region that completed a fiscal year without a vehicular accident. The Census Safety Office and the Field Directorate provided field representatives with additional safe driving instruction, which included reminders that the use of seat belts is mandatory for

the driver and all occupants of vehicles when on official government business. Additionally, laptop computers issued to field representatives display a message to drive safely when the computers are first turned on.

The New York Regional Office is the first recipient of the Safe Driving Award, having experienced no motor vehicle accidents during fiscal year 2003. Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death due to injuries in the United States, and are also the leading cause of work-related fatalities. With the implementation of safe driving techniques, and the use of seat belts, deaths and injuries from motor vehicle accidents can be reduced, as demonstrated by the Census New York Regional Office. For more information on how to prevent motor vehicle accidents visit the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's web site at: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/>.

DOC Occupational Safety and Health Highlights

Please note: The DOC Quarterly OSH Council meeting has moved from the 2nd Thursday of the month to the 3rd Thursday. The next DOC OSH Council meeting is Thursday, October 21, 2004, 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M., HCHB, ROOM 6800.



IMPORTANT WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEWS

Since October 1, 2002, the workers' compensation processing and liaison services for the Department of Commerce has been provided by a private vendor, Contract Claims Services, Incorporated (CCSI, L.P.). Effective August 9, 2004, CCSI has a new physical address. In order to ensure timely claims submission, supervisors should use this address to **submit all initial claims (CA-1's and CA-2's) and claims for disability compensation (CA-7's) by Federal Express** to the new address:

CCSI, L.P.
300 E. Royal Lane
Suite 200
Irving, TX 75039

Employees and/or supervisors should **send all other claims-related documents** to the current Post Office Box:

CCSI, L.P.
P.O. Box 542528
Dallas, TX 7534-2528

The contact numbers at CCSI, L.P., will remain the same:

Telephone: 1-800-743-2231
FAX: 1-888-467-1273

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kathy Mattingly at (202) 482-0689.

**NOTE: THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO THE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Occupational Safety and Health Report

September 2004

Introduction

This report complements the Executive Summary and provides an update to Department of Commerce (DOC) managers and employees on the progress of Departmental safety and occupational health initiatives and information regarding important Departmentwide safety and occupational health issues for August 2004. The report also contains the latest available accident data for the Department. Section One of the report, Program Updates and Safety and Health Tips, provides updates on the occupational safety and health initiatives. Section Two, Injury Statistics, provides statistics regarding DOC injuries, as reported to the Workers' Compensation (WC) Program for August 2004, and an analysis of the data to assist bureaus in focusing their safety efforts. Section Three, Survey Results, provides the September results from the online survey available through the intranet Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Program Web site.

Section One: Program Updates and Safety and Health Tips

Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OOSH) Program Assessments. During the months of August and September, OOSH personnel met with OSH managers from Census, NIST, NOAA, and USPTO to conduct OSH program audits. The audit format is based on guidelines for program assessments developed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for use in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The audits are not traditional checklists, rather they focus on participation and support of OSH programs by both management and employees. The audits do identify program deficiencies, but also recognize "best practices" and accomplishment of "stretch" objectives.

Workers' Compensation. To ensure timely and accurate processing of workers' compensation documentation, DOCs Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) requests supervisors carefully follow the guidance below when a Form CA-1, Federal Employee's Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Continuation of Pay/Compensation, is submitted.

- **Complete the Supervisor's Report paying particular attention to Number 23, "Date Notice Received," and enter the date you received the Form CA-1 from your employee. Do not enter the date of injury.**
- **Submit the completed form to the Department's workers' compensation contractor, Contract Claims Services, Incorporated (CCSI, L.P.), within 2 days. (See Flyer on page iii of this report.)**

Industrial Hygiene. The field of OSH is composed of a variety of sub-disciplines. One of these is industrial hygiene. Although many common issues associated with OSH programs are within the realm of industrial hygiene, the average person has never heard of an industrial hygienist and has no idea what their work entails.

One formal definition of industrial hygiene is “the science and art of recognizing, evaluating, and controlling environmental factors or stresses at the work place which may cause illness, lack of well being or discomfort among workers or among the community as a whole.” Perhaps a simpler explanation is that industrial hygienists are primarily involved with nontraumatic workplace injuries while traditional safety addresses traumatic injuries. Even though industrial hygiene has its roots in factories and industrial plants, now industrial hygienists can be found in virtually every workplace, including DOC and several of its bureaus. Industrial hygienists are on staff at NOAA, NIST, and OOSH. The following is a list of some common subjects and activities included in the field of industrial hygiene:

- Indoor air quality
- Ergonomics
- Hazardous chemical use
- Ventilation for comfort as well as to remove hazardous materials
- Noise control
- Asbestos control
- Lead control
- Workplace infectious disease control

What can you do if you need the services of an industrial hygienist and do not have one on your staff? Contact your local safety representative or your bureau safety office.

Safety.

a. Smoke Detectors. Now that fall is here, and the switch back to standard time will be made the last weekend in October, this is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and check their operation. This takes only a few minutes, and it could prevent major damage to your house, as well as serious injuries or death. While you are checking the existing smoke detectors, you may consider placing additional detectors to increase the level of protection. Smoke detectors should be placed on every level of the house, and near each bedroom either on the ceiling at least 6-12 inches from the wall, or on the wall, 6-12 inches below the ceiling. Smoke detectors are the fastest and most efficient means of alerting your family of a fire, and they are inexpensive. Most major retail stores carry smoke detectors, and they range from \$5.00 to \$20.00. Now is also a good time to replace the batteries in your flashlights, as they will help you find your way out through smoke and darkness. Fire is a deadly threat to any household. It can strike at any time, and it is estimated that 2.6 million fires occur each year in the United States. You must be prepared for such an emergency, and smoke detectors provide an excellent early warning against fires.

b. Halloween Safety. Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween without any accidents or other mishaps for their children and their guests. The excitement of this time of year and the thrill of going house to house in search of treats makes children less attentive to their surroundings and more prone to accidents. Anytime a child is injured in an accident it is a tragic experience, and by following a few safety guidelines, and using common sense, accidents can be prevented. Here are a few tips for both children and adults which will make your Halloween safer:

For trick or treaters:

- Stay in well lit areas
- Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries
- Always go with others, never go alone
- Walk, don't run
- Obey traffic signals
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods
- Avoid wearing masks when walking from house to house
- Approach only houses that are lit
- Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know
- Wear clothing with reflective markings
- Carry only flexible knives, swords, or other props

Parents:

- Have children eat dinner before heading out
- Always accompany young children
- Provide children with money in case they need to call home
- Always know where your children are going
- Buy only flame-retardant costumes
- Instruct children to bring home candy before eating
- Inspect all candy wrappers carefully and dispose of any which look suspicious

Homeowners:

- Clear sidewalks and driveways of all trip hazards, such as hoses, dog chains, flower pots
- Be sure all exterior lights are functioning
- Use battery powered lights for jack o' lanterns instead of candles or 120 volt bulbs
- Put pets away which may react to children or costumes

Health and Wellness. Mental Health Week starts October 3rd. Mental Illness Awareness Week is an annual, National observance that was created by a Presidential proclamation in 1990 to focus attention on the high incidence of mental illness in America. This year's theme, "Take Action to Change the Nation," reflects the goals and recommendations of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. This annual observance, sponsored by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, provides an opportunity for evoking change in the Nation's mental health service delivery system through grassroots commitment and action.

Section Two: Injury Statistics

This section provides information on the total number of DOC injuries for the past 5 years and analyzes the types of injuries across the Department. The information in Chart 1 reflects statistics through August 2004. Due to late submissions, processing limitations, and to ensure the accuracy of the information, this section will continue to include information up to the previous month. The data presented in the charts and tables are based upon DOC workers' compensation program records.

Incidence Rate: The incidence rate (IR) represents the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and is calculated as follows:

$$IR = \frac{N}{EH}(200,000)$$

N	=	Number of injuries and illnesses
EH	=	Total hours worked by all employees during the year ¹
200,000	=	Base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year)

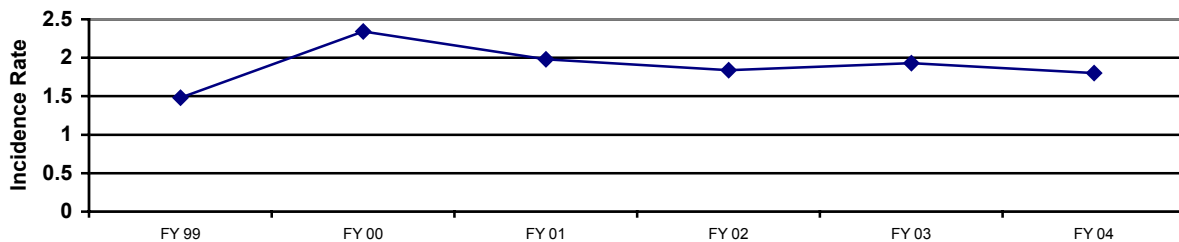
The DOC Workers' Compensation Program keeps records of all injury and illness claims, including those that did not include any lost-work time. An accounting of all incidents allows followup and more comprehensive program review by safety representatives. However, the incident rates from those records are not directly comparable, since they include many minor injuries and illnesses that are not considered "work-related" under OSHA standards for private industry. Injury rates may be skewed as safety awareness increases and employees are encouraged to report all injuries, causing total injury rates to increase despite improvements to safety. Using standardized OSHA recordable incident reporting helps to reduce inconsistent reporting. An OSHA recordable incident is a work-related injury or illness that resulted in one or more of the following: medical treatment beyond first aid, a significant injury or illness diagnosed by a physician or other licensed health care professional, days away from work, restricted work or transfer to another job, loss of consciousness, or death.

¹ The total hours worked were determined based on the total number of employees and the average hours.

Table 1A provides data that corresponds to the OSHA recordable injury criteria. The remaining tables and charts include data for all cases submitted to the Workers' Compensation Program.

Chart 1

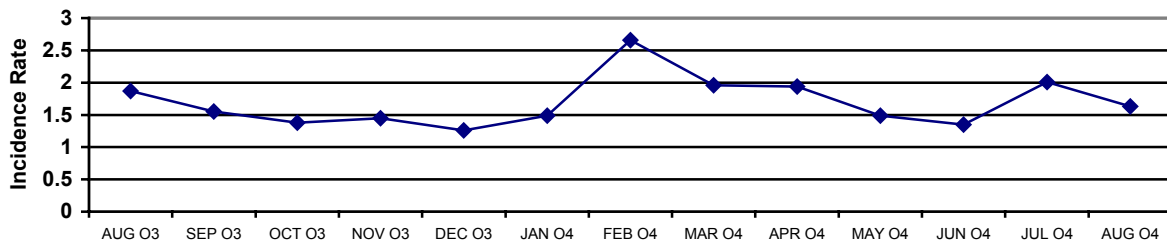
Historical Total Case Incidence Rate Trend



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Chart 2

Monthly Total Case Incidence Rate Trend



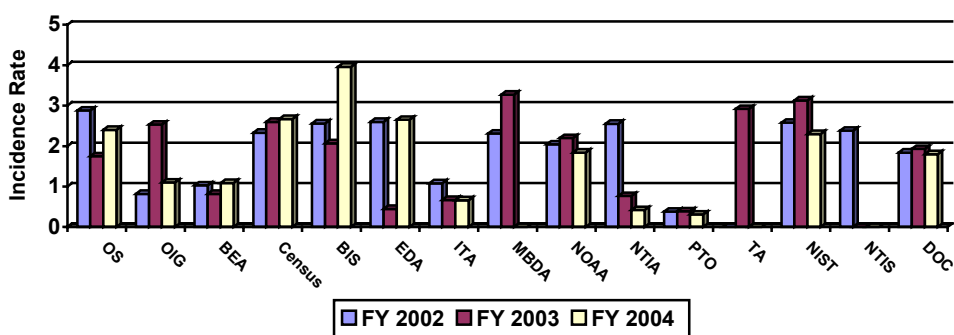
Major findings include:

- **The FY 2004 Total Case Incidence Rate (TCIR) to date for DOC is down from the rate for FY 2003 and FY 2002.** The TCIR is 1.80 (see Chart 1) for FY 2004, 1.93 for FY 2003, and 1.84 for FY 2002. A total of 570 total injuries were reported thus far for FY 2004 (see Table 1).
- **Of the larger bureaus (i.e., bureaus with more than 500 employees), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) had lower TCIRs to date for FY 2004 when compared to FY 2003 (see Chart 3).**
- **Of the smaller bureaus (i.e., bureaus with less than 500 employees), only 24 injuries were reported to date in FY 2004.**

- **The Total Recordable Case Incidence Rate (TRCIR) for DOC is down from previous years. The TRCIRs for DOC are 1.46 for FY 2004, 1.48 for FY 2003, and 1.60 for FY 2002 (see Table 1A).**

Chart 3

Total Case Incidence Rate Comparison



Types of Injuries: Many of the injuries reported can be prevented through improved safety awareness and proper maintenance. A Departmental and bureau focus on eliminating injuries and illnesses continues to be essential. Evaluating the types of claims submitted and structuring safety awareness training programs to eliminate accidents can assist in the mitigation of injuries and illnesses. Information on types of injuries is provided in Charts 4 and 5 and Tables 2 and 2A.

- **“Slips/Falls” injuries accounted for 31 percent of all injuries in FY 2003 (see Chart 4). The trend is lower when compared to 27 percent of injuries reported to date in FY 2004 (see Chart 5).** Many of the slips and falls reported in FY 2004 were attributed to slips and falls on walking surfaces. Spills on floors caused several slips and falls. Employees should use caution and be attentive to the condition of walking surfaces and report spills to the proper office.
- **“Struck By” injuries accounted for 22 percent of those reported in FY 2003 (see Chart 4). To date, FY 2004 “struck by” injuries have increased to 27 percent (see Chart 5).** Of the 18 “struck by” injuries reported in August 2004, 10 were due to motor vehicle accidents. Nine of these were employees of the Census Bureau. OOSH will work with the Census Safety Office to determine what steps should be taken to reduce these injuries.

- **“Exertion” injuries accounted for 25 percent of all injuries in the DOC for FY 2003.** During FY 2004 “exertion” injuries have also accounted for 25 percent of all injuries to date. Lifting and moving objects in the workplace account for many of these injuries. Employees should use proper lifting techniques and use a cart to move heavy objects and/or seek the assistance of DOC movers.

Chart 4
Injury Type as Percentage of Total Injuries for FY 2003

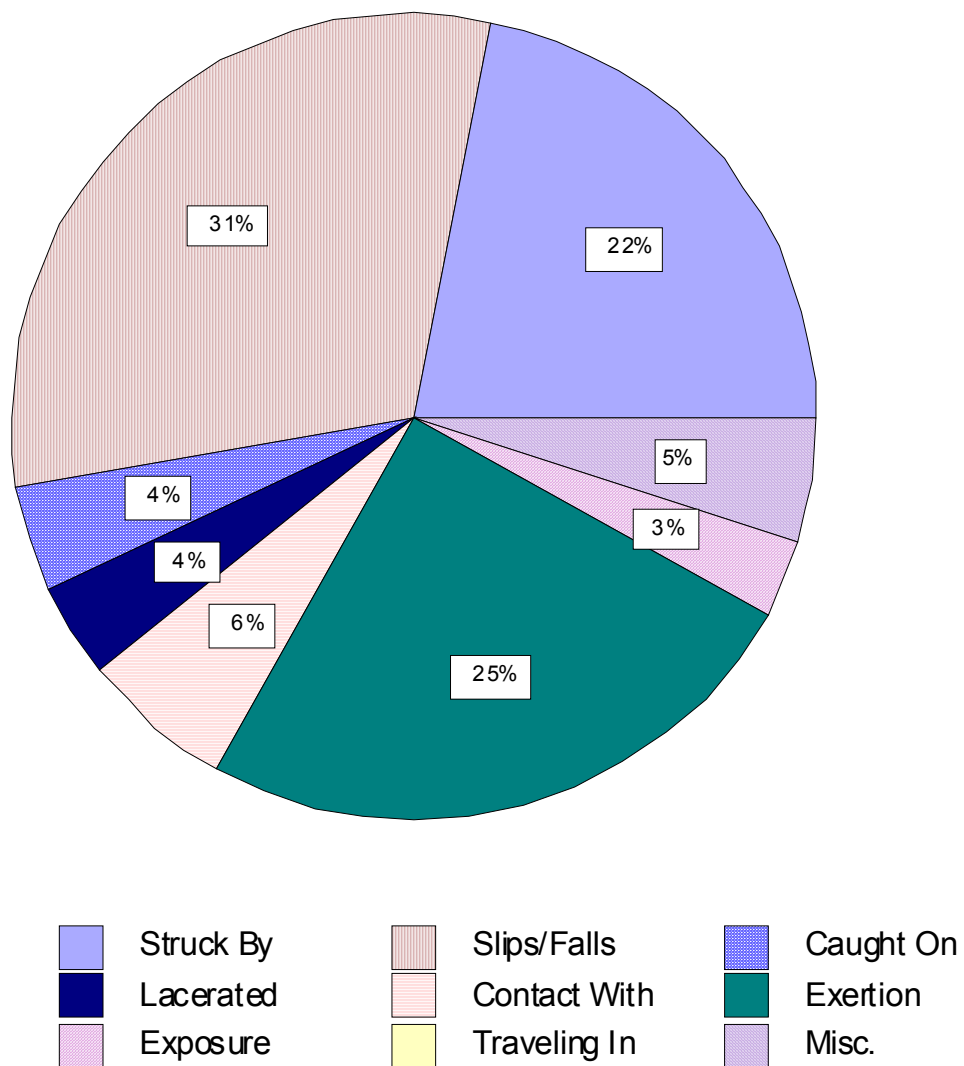


Chart 5
Injury Type as Percentage of Total Injuries “to date” for FY 2004

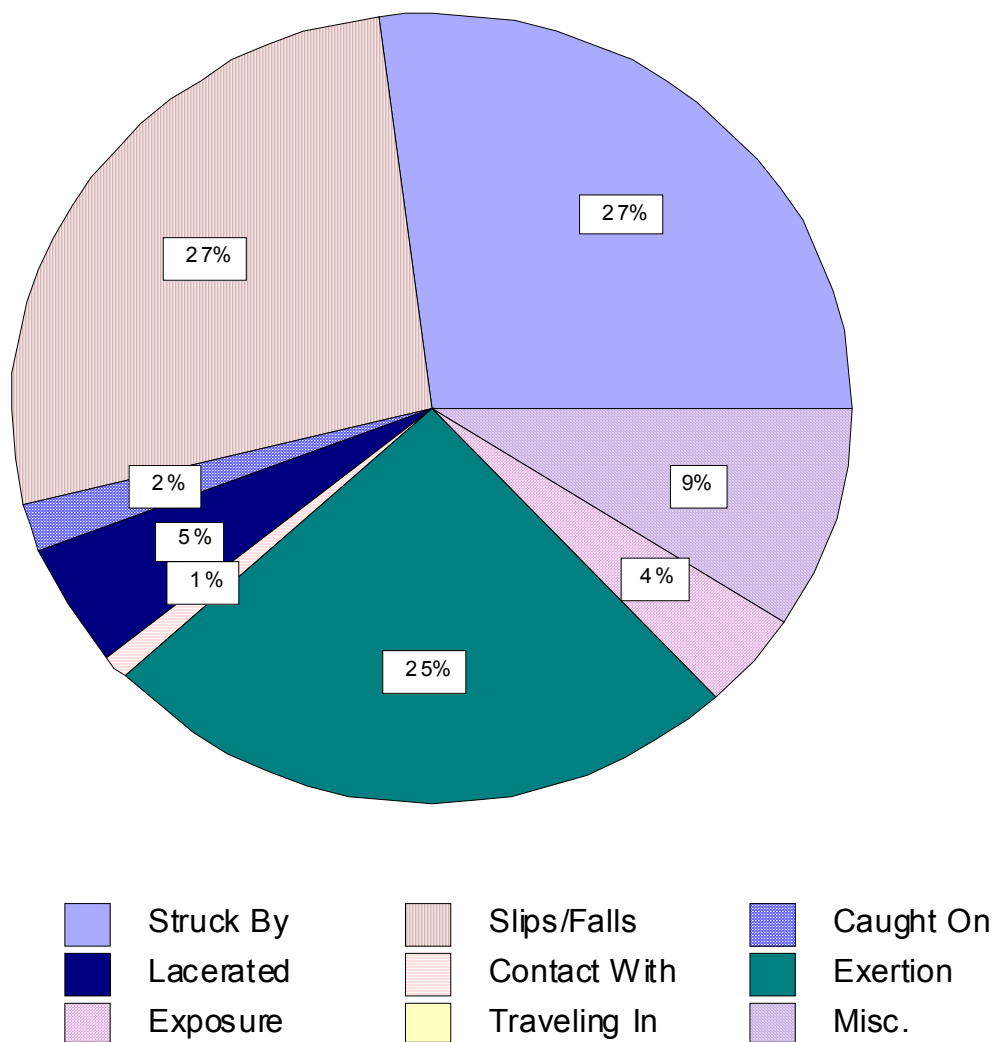


TABLE 1
TOTAL CASE INCIDENCE RATE* (TCIR)

Bureau	FY1999		FY2000		FY2001		FY2002		FY2003		July 2004		August 2004		FY 2004 (To Date)	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Office of the Secretary	19	2.20*	35	3.94	22	2.47	23	2.88	14	1.75	4	6.17	0	0	17	2.40
Office of Inspector General	2	1.32	4	2.98	3	2.15	1	0.82	3	2.53	0	0	0	0	1	1.10
Bureau of Economic Analysis	4	0.88	1	0.23	5	1.12	4	1.03	4	0.82	0	0	0	0	5	1.09
Bureau of the Census	311	1.04	383	2.83	393	2.41	241	2.33	252	2.60	26	2.94	18	2.06	256	2.67
Bureau of Industry and Security	11	3.08	15	4.06	9	2.44	9	2.56	7	2.07	2	7.33	1	3.63	12	3.96
Economic Development Administration	9	3.67	4	1.69	5	2.08	6	2.60	1	0.45	2	11.75	0	0	5	2.65
International Trade Administration	18	0.92	24	1.23	12	0.62	18	1.08	11	0.67	1	0.74	0	0	10	0.66
Minority Business Development Agency	1	1.10	3	3.40	4	4.36	2	2.31	3	3.27	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	317	2.78	307	2.69	247	2.18	228	2.04	246	2.20	15	1.60	22	2.34	190	1.84
National Telecommunications & Information Administration	2	0.88	2	0.87	7	3.03	6	2.55	2	0.77	1	4.63	0	0	1	0.42
Patent and Trademark Office	27	0.47	29	0.50	31	0.55	24	0.38	24	0.39	2	0.40	0	0	17	0.31
Technology Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.92	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Institute of Standards and Technology	84	2.87	79	2.82	68	2.34	76	2.58	90	3.13	5	2.24	6	2.70	56	2.30
National Technical Information Service	6	2.61	4	2.15	1	0.52	4	2.38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	811	1.48	890	2.34	807	1.98	642	1.84	658	1.93	58	2.01	47	1.63	570	1.80
Decennial Census 2000	890	11.3	4798	6.7	32	13.3										

* Total Case Incidence Rate includes all cases reported to the Workers' Compensation Program.

Note: Population fluctuations can have a serious positive or negative impact on the Total Case Incidence Rate.

TABLE 1A
TOTAL RECORDABLE CASE INCIDENCE RATE* (TRCIR)

Bureau	FY1999		FY 2000		FY2001		FY 2002		FY2003		July 2004		August 2004		FY 2004 (To Date)	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Office of the Secretary	19	2.20*	30	3.38	17	1.91	22	2.75	12	1.50	3	4.62	0	0	15	2.12
Office of Inspector General	1	0.66	3	2.24	3	2.15	1	0.82	3	2.53	0	0	0	0	1	1.10
Bureau of Economic Analysis	4	0.88	0	0	5	1.12	3	0.77	3	0.62	0	0	0	0	5	1.09
Bureau of the Census	288	0.96	345	2.55	332	2.04	212	2.05	184	1.90	26	2.94	14	1.61	210	2.19
Bureau of Industry and Security	10	2.80	13	3.52	8	2.17	9	2.56	7	2.07	2	7.33	1	3.63	10	3.30
Economic Development Administration	8	3.26	4	1.69	5	2.08	6	2.60	0	0	2	11.75	0	0	5	2.65
International Trade Administration	17	0.86	22	1.13	11	0.57	10	0.60	11	0.67	1	0.74	0	0	9	0.60
Minority Business Development Agency	1	1.10	2	2.27	4	4.36	2	2.31	2	2.18	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	275	2.41	289	2.53	225	1.98	203	1.81	196	1.75	14	1.49	20	2.13	159	1.54
National Telecommunications & Information Administration	2	0.88	2	0.87	5	2.16	3	1.27	2	0.77	1	4.63	0	0	1	0.42
Patent and Trademark Office	26	0.45	29	0.50	31	0.55	24	0.38	24	0.39	2	0.40	0	0	17	0.31
Technology Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.92	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Institute of Standards and Technology	76	2.60	66	2.36	55	1.89	59	2.00	58	2.01	4	1.79	2	0.90	30	1.23
National Technical Information Service	5	2.18	4	2.15	1	0.52	3	1.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	732	1.34	809	2.13	702	1.72	557	1.60	503	1.48	55	1.91	37	1.29	462	1.46
Decennial Census 2000	890	11.3	4798	6.7	32	13.3										

* The Total Recordable Case Incidence Rate includes only those injuries or illnesses that are reportable to OSHA under 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1904.
Note: Population fluctuations can have a serious positive or negative impact on the Total Reported Case Incidence Rate.

Table 2
INJURY TYPES BY BUREAU
AGENCIES WITH MORE THAN 500 EMPLOYEES
Through August 2004

BUREAU	NOAA			CENSUS**			NIST			PTO			ITA			OS			TOTAL
Fiscal Year	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	
Struck By/Against An Object	29	55	52	27	45	68	8	26	23	4	5	2	1	3	0	2	3	1	354
Falls/Slips	59	59	37	96	96	82	22	21	12	7	12	5	7	6	6	2	2	5	536
Caught On An Object	5	12	4	8	3	0	2	7	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	48
Cuts/Bites	26	5	7	19	19	19	9	1	3	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	115
Contact With An Object	19	5	0	11	5	5	6	0	0	6	4	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	64
Exertion/ Motion	64	73	57	37	51	58	17	22	11	2	2	6	2	0	3	1	8	5	419
Exposure To Chemicals/ Elements	9	9	7	6	18	11	3	3	1	1	0	0	6	1	0	12	0	1	88
Traveling In Car/Metro/ Taxi	10	0	0	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Miscellaneous*	7	22	26	21	10	13	8	8	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	4	129
TOTAL	228	240	190	241	247	256	76	88	56	24	24	17	18	11	10	23	14	17	1780

* Miscellaneous includes injuries not covered in the standard OSHA types of injuries. These include twisting/bending injuries, emotional/psychological stress injuries, injuries which exacerbate a preexisting condition resulting in conditions such as heart attack, seizures, and stroke.

** Decennial Census claims were omitted to provide a clearer picture of injury trends.

Table 2A
INJURY TYPES BY BUREAU
AGENCIES WITH LESS THAN 500 EMPLOYEES
Through August 2004

BUREAU	OIG			ESA/BEA			EDA			TA			NTIS			NTIA			MBDA			BIS			Total
Fiscal Year	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	02	03	04	
Struck By/Against An Object	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	18
Falls/Slips	0	1	0	2	1	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	4	25
Caught On An Object	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Cuts/Bites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contact with an Object	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	5
Exertion/ Motion	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	16
Exposure To Chemicals/ Elements	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Traveling In Car/Metro/ Taxi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous*	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	8
Total	1	3	1	4	4	5	6	1	5	0	1	0	4	0	0	6	2	1	2	3	0	9	7	12	77

* Miscellaneous includes injuries not covered in the standard OSHA types of injuries. These include twisting/bending injuries, emotional/psychological stress injuries, injuries which exacerbate a preexisting condition resulting in conditions such as heart attack, seizures, and stroke.

Section Three: Survey Results

We continue to receive comments through the Safety and Health Survey web site. We are using employee comments to help shape a safety program responsive to employee issues and concerns. The web site can be accessed through the OHRM homepage at <http://ohrm.doc.gov/>.

Safety and Health Survey Statistics

We received 39 responses to September's survey. The following tables provide data regarding the distribution of responses by bureau and general geographical area, as well as general safety impressions. The OSH survey provides feedback from the DOC community we serve and provides an additional insight on whether or not DOC OSH programs and initiatives are active.

Table 3A
Safety and Health Survey
September Results

Have you experienced a safety lapse in your work area during the past 3 months?		
Answer	Response	Percent
No	30	76.92
Yes	9	23.08

Table 3B
Safety and Health Survey
September Results

Have you noticed any safety improvements in your work area or in the Department as a whole during the past 3 months?		
Answer	Response	Percent
No	24	64.86
Yes	13	35.14

Table 3B indicates the continued perception that there is a lack of safety improvements within the Department, where 79.49 percent of the responses are associated with the Department's three major bureaus NOAA, CENSUS, and PTO respectively (see Table 3D).

In response to the perception that there is a lack of safety and health improvements within the Department, the OSH Council organized an OSH survey-working group to develop a method to respond and track issues related to the safety and health survey.

The OSH survey-working group (NOAA, Census, PTO, and ITA) provided a draft copy of the revised OSH survey to OHRM's information technology (IT) office. The OHRM IT office will begin the development of the new OSH survey. A follow-on meeting with the working group is currently being scheduled to ensure all requirements are identified and to provide additional information to support required data fields. The group will be requesting information and input from each bureau and/or agency to finalize the survey.

Table 3C
Safety and Health Survey
September Results by Geographic Area

Geographical Location		
State	Response	Percent
AZ	1	2.63
CA	1	2.63
CO	5	2.63
DC	5	13.16
FL	2	5.26
GA	1	2.63
IN	1	2.63
MA	1	2.63
MD	13	34.21
MI	1	2.63
NY	1	2.63
UT	1	2.63
VA	8	21.05
WA	1	2.63

Table 3D
Safety and Health Survey
September Results by Bureau/Agency

Bureau Breakdown		
Bureau	Response	Percent
CENSUS	9	23.08
EDA	2	5.13
ITA	1	2.56
NIST	4	10.26
NOAA	12	30.77
OS	1	2.56
PTO	10	25.64